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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7541

MANILA PASS CODEL MORGAN

H PASS CONGRESSMAN MORGAN'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OREP (MORGAN, THOMAS)

SUBJECT: CODEL MORGAN

FOLLOWING IS AN UNCLEARED REPORT ON CODEL'S VISIT TO TAIWAN. REPORT
WAS PREPARED AFTER CODEL'S DEPARTURE FROM TAIWAN.

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: DURING A NOVEMBER 6-10 VISIT TO
TAIPEI, CODEL MORGAN MET WITH EMBASSY AND TDC FOR BRIEFINGS
AND HAD WIDE-RANGING SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH-
RANKING GROC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN,
PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO, FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN,
FINANCE MINISTER FEI HUA, ECONOMIC MINISTER SUN YUN-HSUAN,
DEFENSE MINISTER KAO KUEI-YUAN, AND CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF
ADMIRAL SUNG CHANG-CHIH. MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS THAT WERE
DISCUSSED INCLUDED US CHINA POLICY, NORMALIZATION AND THE PROBLEM
OF TAIWAN, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ROC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
MILITARY CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE EMBASSY BRIEFING, CHARGE POPPLE DISCUSSED THE ROC'S
POLITICAL SITUATION AND US CHINA POLICY, AND ECONOMIC
COUNSELLOR KYLE MADE A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON THE ROC'S
ECONOMIC SITUATION. CODEL EXPRESSED ITS STRONG INTEREST IN
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND SOUGHT FURTHER INFORMATION ON ROC
NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS. IN RESPONSE ROC'S
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NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM WAS DESCRIBED, AND GROC'S RECENT ASSURANCES

TO THE US REGARDING ITS NUCLEAR INTENTIONS WERE CITED, WITH NOTE THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY. AFTER EMBASSY BRIEFING CODEL MET WITH COMUSTDC AND WAS BRIEFED BY TDC AND MAAG ON MILITARY ISSUES.

3. MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT YEN, PREMIER CHIANG, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF US NORMALIZATION POLICY ON TAIWAN, ROC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRC, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. PREMIER'S DISCUSSION WITH CODEL (REPORTED REFTEL) OFFERED THE MOST FORTHRIGHT VIEWS PRESENTED TO CODEL ON THESE SUBJECTS.

A. NORMALIZATION: IN ADDITION TO PREMIER'S COMMENTS (SEE REFTEL) SHEN MADE AN ARTICULATE AND SPIRITED PRESENTATION OF WELL-KNOWN ROC VIEWS ON NORMALIZATION, INCLUDING THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON THE STABILITY OF THE WHOLE AREA AND THE LOSS OF US CREDIBILITY ABROAD SHOULD THE US ABANDON ITS COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN. NEITHER SHEN NOR OTHER OFFICIALS WITH WHOM CODEL SPOKE EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST IN THE US PURSUING NORMALIZATION THROUGH THE "GERMAN" MODEL. WHEN ASKED ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG, SHEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLAIN BITTERLY ABOUT THE FAILURE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TO RECEIVE THE ROC AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND ABOUT THE UNANSWERED REQUESTS BY THE ROC AMBASSADOR TO BE RECEIVED AT THE WHITEHOUSE.

B. IN RESPONSE TO GROC OFFICIALS' COMMENTS ON US CHINA POLICY, CONGRESSMAN MORGAN, NOTING THAT HE WAS RETIRING FROM THE CONGRESS AND WAS SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, GAVE HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD MOVE SLOWLY, STRESSING CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY. HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS OR IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN US CHINA POLICY. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER, HE THOUGHT, WOULD WANT TO STUDY U.S. POLICY CAREFULLY. THE CODEL ALSO GAVE ASSURANCES TO VARIOUS OFFICIALS THAT THE ROC HAD MANY FRIENDS IN CONGRESS AND AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. THEY URGED THE ROC TO MAKE ITS CASE KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND INDICATED THAT IN THEIR VIEW THERE WAS STRONG PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. CONGRESSMAN MORGAN ALSO NOTED THAT

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THE CODEL INTENDED TO PASS ON TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED DURING THEIR VISIT TO TAIWAN.

C. ROC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRC: ALL OFFICIALS TO WHOM THE QUESTION WAS POSED CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THE ROC HAS ENGAGED IN ANY UNOFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PRC (SEE REFTEL). ADMIRAL SUNG, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE PRC COULD SUCCESSFULLY INFILTRATE ITS AGENTS TO

FORM A KIND OF UNDERGROUND FORCE IN THE ROC, SAID THAT THE ROC WAS CONSTANTLY ON ITS GUARD BUT IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT SOME WOULD SLIP THROUGH.

D. HUMAN RIGHTS: IN MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS, THE CODEL EMPHASIZED THE CONTINUING US INTERESTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, AND NOTED THAT CURRENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION HAD PROVISIONS REQUIRING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO REPORT TO THE CONGRESS FULLY ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SECURITY AID-RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. THE PREMIER WAS OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF THE CODEL'S INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AND VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION IN AN UNUSUALLY FORTHCOMING MANNER (SEE REFTEL).

4. ECONOMICS: MINISTERS FEI AND SUN BRIEFED THE CODEL ON ROC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE TEN MAJOR PROJECTS. THEY ALSO RESPONDED TO CODEL INQUIRIES ON ROC SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE PROGRAMS, THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY, AND US/ROC TRADE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO ROC EXPORTS OF MUSHROOMS AND TEXTILES AND IMPORTS OF TOBACCO AND CITRUS.

5. MILITARY: DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER KAO AND ADMIRAL SUNG REVOLVED AROUND THE STATUS AND READINESS OF ROC ARMED FORCES, THE DEFENSE BUDGET, AND THE PRC THREAT. KAO NOTED THAT THE ROC WOULD NEED LONGER RANGE MISSILES FOR ITS NAVY TO COUNTER PRC MISSILE BOATS. KAO ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE ROC WOULD NOT USE ANY NEW WEAPONS IN THE OFFENSIVE MODE TO PROVOKE THE PRC.

6. CODEL'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GROC OFFICIALS WERE UNIFORMLY CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY.

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